



# THE DEFENDER

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## Build a Better Future by Answering the Call to Serve



*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”*

This powerful moment from Isaiah 6:8 calls each of us to reflect on our role within our community. It reminds us that service is not merely an obligation—it is an opportunity to step forward with purpose, courage, and faith.

Today, our communities need people who are willing to say, “Here I am.” Not people seeking recognition or reward, but individuals committed to serving with honor, honesty, and humility. Honor calls us to act with integrity, doing what is right even when no one is watching. Honesty builds trust, allowing our neighborhoods, organizations, and relationships to flourish on a strong foundation. Humility keeps us grounded, reminding us that service is about lifting others up, not elevating ourselves.

Isaiah did not ask for details or guarantees before offering himself. His response was immediate and wholehearted. Likewise, we are invited to step beyond hesitation and self-doubt. Whether it is volunteering, helping a neighbor, mentoring youth, or contributing to local initiatives, every act of service matters. Communities are strengthened when ordinary people choose to do extraordinary things through simple acts of kindness and responsibility.

Serving with honor, honesty, and humility transforms not only the lives of those we help but also our own hearts. It shapes us into individuals who reflect compassion, fairness, and dedication. When we answer the call to serve, we become part of something greater than ourselves—a shared effort to build a better, more caring community.

The question still echoes today: “Whom shall I send?” May we each have the courage to respond, “Here I am. Send me.”

God Bless,  
Rob Linebarger,  
Chair@SpokaneGOP.com



### Call to Action

by Natalie Poulson

**Don't wait for opportunities to come to you—create them!**

The deadline is less than a month away and we need everybody engaged and committed to gathering at least 40 signatures.

Many of the best signature gathering locations start with a simple conversation.

Stop by a local grocery store, coffee shop, hardware store, or retail business and ask to speak with the manager. Explain that you're a volunteer gathering signatures for a Washington State initiative and ask if they would be willing to allow signature gathering outside their location.

You may be surprised how many businesses are supportive. Walmart locations are often a great option, as signature gathering is generally permitted outside the entrance area as long as walkways remain clear and customers can enter and exit freely.

A few signatures here and there add up quickly, and every volunteer can make a big impact by finding opportunities in their own community.

**“Whom shall I send? Here am I. Send Me!”**



**Defending Faith, Family & Freedom**

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# HALEY TALKS TRUTH



## The Future of the Republican Party Depends on Mentorship

by Haley Barkman

2026 Lincoln Day Speech Contest Champion

According to FairVote, young people are significantly less likely to vote than older generations. Citizens between the ages of 18 and 29 consistently turn out at rates more than ten points lower than voters over 30. Too often, we talk about this statistic with frustration, but frustration alone will not build the future of the Republican Party. Young people must be invited.

Last month, I wrote about what I wish older conservatives understood about Gen Z. The next question is how we are to rally my generation?

Some organizations (you could probably name a few) are already doing this well through youth outreach, volunteer programs, internships, and community involvement. The problem is that many young people simply do not know these opportunities exist. I did not know about opportunities in Washington until this year, when I found them through the Lincoln Day speech contest.

If Gen Z is craving connection, then relationships are the best way to engage them:

**First**, meet Gen Z where they already are. Volunteer in youth ministry, local nonprofits, schools, or community organizations. Many of these groups struggle to keep volunteers after college and beyond, which leaves younger people without consistent mentorship from older adults.

**Second**, invite Gen Z personally. It has been so meaningful to me that I have been invited into Republican spaces! Invite young people to events. Ask them to coffee. Invest in them personally. Most young people will respond far more to relationships than to political messaging. When you live out strong values with consistency and integrity, young people notice. They want examples worth following.

**Finally**, include Gen Z in meaningful ways. Do not treat them like background decoration for campaign photos but instead give them responsibility. Encourage them to organize events, volunteer, speak up, and contribute ideas. If they feel genuinely valued, many of them will eagerly step forward.

The future of the Republican Party will be built through mentorship, relationships, and strong, Republican men and women willing to invite young people into meaningful community and responsibility



# 2026 CAUCUS & CONVENTION

*Save These Dates*  
**Spokane County  
GOP Precinct Caucuses**

**Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am**  
**Locations Throughout Spokane County**

**Spokane County  
GOP Convention**

**Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 am**  
**Mead Union Events Center**

*Be Part of Shaping Your Party and Community*



# LIBERTY'S SENTINEL



*“In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.” [Mark Twain]*

## **The Time to Stop Corruption and Tyranny is Now**

The Founding Fathers were deeply concerned that holding public office, while necessary for governance, could easily become a pathway to corruption, injustice, and tyranny if not carefully restrained. Their warnings were rooted in a sober understanding of human nature: that power, once acquired, tends to expand and be misused.

James Madison, often called the “Father of the Constitution,” argued that government itself reflects human imperfection. Because “men are not angels,” those entrusted with authority must be checked and balanced by competing powers. He warned that “the accumulation of all powers... in the same hands... may justly be pronounced the very definition of

tyranny,” and insisted that “ambition must be made to counteract ambition” to prevent abuse. This insight led directly to the constitutional system of separated powers, designed to restrain officials from overreaching.

George Washington, in his 1796 Farewell Address, emphasized the dangers of self-interest once in office. He cautioned that political factions could substitute the will of a few for the will of the people, undermining public trust and opening the door to domination. He stressed that leaders must prioritize the common good over personal or partisan ambition, or risk eroding the republic from within.

Thomas Jefferson expressed perhaps the starkest warning: that even elected governments could devolve into “elective despotism” if power became concentrated and unaccountable. He observed that individuals in office might “make interested uses of every right and power” and that corruption could spread from leaders into society itself. Jefferson also warned that “the time to guard against corruption and tyranny is before they shall have gotten hold of us,” underscoring the need for vigilance.

John Adams similarly emphasized the moral danger inherent in office, stating that because power corrupts, greater authority demands greater character and accountability. Without virtue and an informed citizenry, even well-designed institutions could decay into injustice.

Taken together, the Founders’ warnings reveal a consistent theme: public office is a trust, not a privilege. Without strong institutions, civic virtue, and public oversight, the trappings of power—prestige, authority, and influence—can easily corrupt leaders and threaten liberty itself.



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# AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

## Patriot Tina Peters is Finally Free



Picture by Kevin Mohatt/Reuters

Tina Peters, the former Mesa County, Colorado Clerk walked out of prison on June 1, 2026, after spending 606 days behind bars for performing her sworn duty

Tina had been serving a nine year sentence after a 2024 conviction tied to a 2021 breach of election system security. Prosecutors said she allowed unauthorized access to county voting equipment, leading to copies of election data being shared publicly. However, Tina's supporters and allies have long argued that her actions were motivated by a desire to preserve

election records and investigate concerns about the 2020 election, not to undermine the system.

Her case drew national attention, with supporters portraying her as a whistleblower punished for questioning election integrity. The situation escalated politically, with then former President Donald Trump publicly advocating for her release and calling her a victim of unfair treatment.

In April 2026, a Colorado appeals court upheld Peters' conviction but ruled that her original sentence had been improperly influenced by her protected political speech, ordering a new sentencing process. This decision became a turning point. The following month, Democrat Governor Jared Polis commuted her sentence, reducing it significantly and making her eligible for parole.

Polis stated that while Peters committed a crime and deserved punishment, her sentence had been unusually long for a first time, nonviolent offender. Supporters seized on that acknowledgment as evidence that the justice system had treated her too harshly.

Tina's release has reignited debate nationwide. Critics maintain her actions jeopardized election security, but we see her as a symbol of resistance against government corruption and judicial overreach.

Our prayer for Tina Peters and her family:

*“Heavenly Father, be near to those who suffer injustice and persecution; protect them, strengthen their hearts, and bring truth, justice, and peace into their lives. Amen.”*



# IP26-645

## **Vote YES on IP26-645: Stop the Income Tax in Washington State** **Give Washingtonians the right to vote on the income tax**

**IP26-645** is an initiative to the people to repeal Washington's new income tax and prohibit state and local governments from imposing any tax on individual income. Your paycheck and your income are your property. **IP26-645** repeals the income tax framework enacted by SB 6346, but leaves the benefits for Washingtonians included in place.

### THREE IMPORTANT POINTS

- 1 The income tax is coming for you.**
- 2 You can't trust Olympia.**
- 3 Olympia is wasteful, and has a spending problem.**

#### ➔ THE INCOME TAX IS COMING FOR YOU.

- In their own leaked emails, the ones they never wanted you to see, they lay out their real plan – an income tax on everyone.
- The income tax was structured as a tax on all, just with a million-dollar deduction.
- They don't think you're smart enough to understand what they're doing.

#### ➔ YOU CAN'T TRUST THEM.

- They don't feel constrained by the constitution.
- They don't play by the rules because they think the rules don't apply to them.
- Phil Talmadge, Democratic state senator and former State Supreme Court Justice, says the income tax didn't follow the rules.
- When the people who built the system say the rules weren't followed, that tells you everything about how Ferguson and Pedersen operate.

#### ➔ WHO OWNS YOUR INCOME?

- Jamie Pedersen thinks the government owns it, and they're letting you keep some.
- We think it's yours.
- Vote **YES** if you agree.

#### ➔ INCREASED SPENDING - BROKEN PROMISES, BROKEN PROGRAMS, AND STILL THEY WANT MORE.

- Every Governor for the last 14 years said the same thing, just give us more money and we'll solve all the problems.
- Budgets doubled. Homelessness got worse. Schools fell behind. Roads deteriorated.
- Bob Ferguson has more money than any governor in state history... and the problems are actually getting worse.
- Rewarding failure isn't compassion, it's insanity.

#### ➔ PEOPLE ARE FLEEING THE STATE AND THE INCOME TAX.

- Even progressive donors like Nick Hanauer have left. Howard Schultz, Starbucks and hundreds of small business owners - gone.
- Those who can't leave will be hurt the most.
- When the people who are supposed to pay this tax walk out the door, do you think they'll cut the tax, or do you think they'll make you pay it?



**THE INCOME TAX**  
**VOTE YES ON IP26-645**

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## Over Fifty Years of Changing Hearts

Now Accelerating a Culture of Life Across Washington



## Breaking Barriers statewide diaper drive!

HLW Life & Love Network™ is hosting the **Breaking Barriers Statewide Diaper Drive (March 2026–March 2027)**, working to provide **500 cases of diapers** to families across Washington—nearly **10,000 diapers** have already been collected. Just **\$50 supplies a full case (144 diapers)**, helping support a family for a month.

To learn more, register, or get involved, visit <https://humanlifewa.org> or contact Jeryl Reinbolt at [jeryl@humanlifewa.org](mailto:jeryl@humanlifewa.org)

We'd love for you to join us at the **Culture of Life & Love Summit & Arts Festival, June 26–27** at the **HAPO Center in Pasco, WA.**

This gathering is more than just an event—it's an opportunity to come together in community, creativity, and purpose. Whether you've been involved in this movement for years or are simply curious and looking for something meaningful, you are welcome here.

From a youth oratory contest to an evening arts festival and prayer breakfast, each moment is designed to bring people together. Join us to listen, learn, and be part of something bigger. We would love to see you there!

Register using this link here: <https://humanlifewa.org/>



*Culture of Life & Love*™  
SUMMIT

**HLW's Mission is to inform and inspire the public about life-affirming options, fostering a culture that cherishes every individual, regardless of age or circumstance**

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